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International Court of Justice

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

1 July 1946

COMMISSIONER:

Captain Joseph Tubridy.

THE S. S.

(THE COMMISSION CONVENED AT 1445 HOURS.)

FRITZ SCHWALM, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Q Will you raise your right had and repeat after me:

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath.)

Q Will you please state your full name?

A Fritz Schwalm.

THE COMMISSIONER: You may sit down.

DR. HAENSEL: I want to ask the witness concerning the planning and carrying out of idealistic training of the SS men in connection with the racial and settlement main office.

DIRECT EXAMINATION.

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BY DR. HAENSEL:

Q When did you become a member of the SS?

A I belonged to the SS since 1932.

Q How did you happen to come into the SS?

A I was a member of the NSDAP and the SA at that time. I was studying anthropology in Munich and I was interested in the way the SA and NSDAP were examining its members, or its prospective members, concerning their racial background, etc., and that is what brought me into the SS.

Q Describe as briefly as possible your career in the SS?

A I was a volunteer SS man from 1932 to 1934 just like everyone else. In April of 1934 I entered the SS and I took over the office of the racial and settlement question as an SS Oberabschnitte.

Q In other words, you were concerned with the racial and settlement question of the SS, which is on the sketch which has been introduced as Exhibit SS 1 and that is the racial and settlement office. Would you please describe on this chart where the racial and settlement group are quartered within the entire organization.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: I don't know if there is much point having a discussion regarding the chart or organization unless it has to do with the charge of criminality of the organization. If the testimony relates to that, we can go on.

DR. HAENSEL: The planning of the SS is regarded as criminal by the prosecution and it is much easier to talk about it if we have in front of us a chart, which shows that branch of the SS which was in charge of this planning.

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BY DR. HANSEL:

Q To what extent did the racial and settlement main office participate in the training of the SS men?

A I would like to answer your first question. According to the chart, the location of the racial and settlement office on the chart is the fifth main office from the left under the heading Reichsfuehrer or Reichsleadership. I want to state in this connection that the lower subordinate offices are not given correctly on this chart. In the lowest square is an office called Resettlements, I translate Resettlements as Wiedenbesiedling or Resettlement. There was no Resettlement office in the main office from 1934 to 1939 nor from 1939 to 1945.

Now, as far as the second question is concerned. The entire education of the SS was anchored on this racial and settlement office of the SS.

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In 1937 the education branch which was especially concerned with these matters was transferred to the SS and given this duty. That, however, was a purely organizational change within the main offices. In the SS Oberabschnitte this change did not cause any organizational changes, that is as far as the times that this education was carried out, nor did it change any of the personnel. The only real difference was that from now on the actual SS leaders, that is the Chiefs of the so-called Sturme, Sturmbanne, and Standarten, were more concerned with the education of the SS men, taking the place of the former Education Officer.

Q Major Farr, in his speech of 19 December 1945, stated that this racial selection had the purpose of selecting a special group of people who were ready and able to carry out the criminal action that was desired. This racial ideology has to be connected with a name that has to be mentioned here, Darree. To what extent did Darree have under his supervision or influence the training of the SS, that is, what was his influence upon the Racial and Settlement Main Office?

A The later Reichs Minister, Richard Walter Darree, who was in charge at that time of the Racial and Settlement Main Office of the SS, influenced the education and training of the SS mainly in two directions. Darree's first influence was especially on the education to an agricultural ideology or peasant ideology and the second was that he had all the members of the SS checked again and that members of the SS were excluded from that organization between 1934 and the end of 1935 after they had all entered without any special selection in the year of 1933. His thinking concerning this agricultural ideology was expressed in his books and I just want to mention a couple - "Neuadel aus Blut und Boden" (New Nobility from Blood and Ground) and "Bauerntum als Lebensquell der Nordeschen Rassen" (Peasantry as the Well of Life of the Nordic Races.) Besides that, the SS, which at that time had a much larger

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membership within the cities, attempted to change all its recruiting to the agricultural districts and at times Landesbauenfuehrer,(country peasant leaders) Kreisbauenfuehrer (Kreis peasant leaders) and Ortsbauenfuehrer (local peasant leaders) were made members of the SS or, in some places, honorary members of the SS. He also brought about, as I already stated before, that so-called check of the SS members and at that time it was required that the members not only meet certain minimum requirements which up to that time had only been checked by physicians, but also a biological minimum in order to bring about an especially good group of men. This check also included those members who had been taken in in the year 1933. If I remember correctly about 50,000 men that attempted to get into the SS between 1934 and the fall of 1935 were not taken and unsuitable members that already were in the SS were removed from that organization.

Q In order not to tire the Court may I quote two sentences from the speech of Major Farr on the afternoon of 19 December 1945 in order to show what connection this testimony has with the Indictment of the Prosecution. He made the two following accusations and I quote:

"It wanted not only to create an aristocracy which could master Germany but also one that could master all of Europe."

I continue quoting. The second point is a negative point of this racial education.

"Hitler not only built up a special racial group in order to rule all of Europe but he also created within this group such a hatred against these people which he, to use his words, called "Minderwertig" (not equal value.)

Witness, when you answer the questions will you answer them in the light of telling us whether the education of the SS had as its purpose the creation

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of a certain ruling group or clique and whether it also installed hatred in this group against the socalled inferior people of Europe.

A I will continue in the explanation where I was interrupted.

MR. ELWYN JONES: I think it will be more convenient if he deals with the direct questions the defense counsel has put to him. He is being extremely lengthy and up to now extremely irrelevant if I may say so.

DR. HAENSEL: We have to give our point of view concerning this question and I am asking the witness whether in this education the rule over Europe was the main point and whether they were taught to hate the so-called inferior people of Europe.

A I can answer both questions with no but I think I am responsible to explain this "no" to the Commission and to this whole proceeding a little more in detail.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: No, the Commission does not believe it is necessary. Dr. Haensel, could you let us know about how much time you will need with this witness?

DR. HAENSEL: About one hour at the most.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Could you take less time, if possible, because a good bit of this has been covered before, I think.

DR. HAENSEL: I will attempt to do so.

BY DR. HAENSEL:

Q Was the SS man educated to swear obedience to something that he did not even know what it was, or was he told certain basic fundamental ideals concerning his life, his choice of a wife, and his characteristics?

A There were no unknown goals and there also was no education towards unknown goals. It was the purpose of this education to educate a man that

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was brave, that was loyal, and a person that was religious - altogether a person who showed good characteristics every hour of the day.

Q Was the oath of absolute obedience contained in the oath?

MR. ELWYN JONES: Really, Sir, this question has been put, during the brief time I have been concerned here, to two other witnesses. It has been dealt with twice already. Both SS men denied before, presumably the third one is going to deny again. I do suggest that this is very repetitious.

DR. HAENSEL: Yes, if the witness answers the question with "no."

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Dr. Haensel, could you please eliminate from the questioning, matters which have been covered before, so that we won't have to raise objections to it and consume time that way?

BY DR. HAENSEL:

Q Was the murder or killing of Jewish people prepared in any way in this racial education?

A No.

Q Would you please explain briefly the difference in this racial question, that is the positive racial education as such as it was taught in the SS and the propaganda anti-Semitism?

A These two thoughts have to be divided from the beginning. There is no Jewish Race, just as little as there is a German Race. There is a Jewish people just like there is a German people, a French, people, a Belgium people or a British people.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Just a minute. On this line of testimony you have had so many documents introduced ~~against you~~ that I don't think there is much point in developing this with this witness.

DR. HAENSEL: I believe that the documents concern themselves mostly

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with anti-Semitism and not with the racial education of the SS. That is the difference. May I ask, for instance, the question - Do you think that it was treason on these principles ~~for~~ if Himmler later on ordered Jews to be killed?

A I not only believe that it was treason on these principles but that these principles were discarded, because we were especially trained in this racial education to have respect for all other races.

Q Do you say, therefore, that there was a certain sympathy that came from this education of the SS concerning Zionism?

A We also thought that the 25 million Jews which were all over this world had a right, just as much as any other nation, to demand a homeland of their own, and they had a right to take care of their own problems, just like we demanded it of our own people.

Q Did the Racial Settlement Main Office of the SS have anything to do with the deportation of Jews or with the driving away of other non-Germans from their homes?

A It did not have anything to do with its planning nor with its carrying out.

Q Did it have anything to do with the so-called Germanization and how did you consider this Germanization?

A The Racial and Settlement Main Office had nothing to do with this Germanization. Our highest position was that of the Reichs Commissar for the strengthening of German Nationality and we had two certain duties: The first one was the removal of all foreign elements and their transportation back to their own Homelands. This was in order to prevent any Germanization by non-Germans. Secondly, the return to the Reich of all those Polish

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Germans living within the area that became Germany after the Polish Campaign.

Q The Prosecution has maintained that the banner line "People without space" or "People without Lebensraum" was a banner headline and a slogan that led Germany on to further territorial aggressive wars.

A We did not want the slogan "Volk ohne Raum" ("People without Room") However, the idea after 1933 was that to a State like this belonged certain colonies and within the next twenty-five to thirty years it would not have been necessary any more to speak principally of a people without room.

Q Was aggressive territorial warfare taught in the education of the SS?

A No. We did not expect by our selection to take a short time but we did expect to need for it a very long period of peace. We did not consider that any kind of racial cleanliness within the Reich could be taken care of within less than twenty-five to thirty years, that is, less than one generation.

(A recess was taken.)

DIRECT EXAMINATION (RESUMED)

BY DR. HAENSEL:

Q Therefore, can one make a bridge between this racial resettlement education and the evacuation, of ghettoes, and the resettlement, as it was carried out later? In other words, was the German policy later on, (the policy of late years,) of these evacuations, deportations and ghettoes, did it have, as its basic principle, this education of the SS?

A No, these things basically did not have anything to do with each other.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: What do you mean by that question, may I ask?

DR. HAENSEL: I want to disprove what the Prosecution has claimed at times, that these crimes against humanity had their start with this

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selection of people of races of which we are talking now. The root of this is not in these principles, it is somewhere else. That is, the root of these later events.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: But what did you mean by the question?

DR. HAENSEL: There have been terrible crimes against humanity on the one hand. On the other hand there was the ideology of the racial selection as it was taught to the SS. I want to prove that this teaching of ideology racial selection to the SS was not the root of these terrible crimes against humanity but that these crimes had their root somewhere else.

CAPTAIN TUBRDIY: It is not an explanation of what you are trying to prove that ~~I want~~ is desired. I am trying to find out what you asked him, what you are trying to elicit from the witness.

DR. HAENSEL: This witness was one of the teachers of this education and he should know what he taught his pupils.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The only point is-the question did not make any sense ~~to me.~~ apparent I am trying to find out what you meant by it.

BY DR. HAENSEL:

Q What did you teach concerning God and religion? Did you teach Godlessness?

A We did not believe in Godlessness and atheism. We did not teach it and we did not believe in it. We required that every SS man, in his own religion, did believe or did honor God.

Q Did Himmler make any statements concerning this? Do you remember a speech in Gosslar where he mentioned God?

A I remember this speech very well myself, since I was present at that time. If I remember correctly the heading of this speech was "The

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SS As An Anti-Bolshevistic Fighting Organization," and towards the end Himmler came to the part where he spoke of the relation of the SS men to God. I think it was when he spoke of the education of the SS men that is when he mentioned the 50 basic rules of the education of the SS men. In the first 5 questions I believe it stated, and I quote, "Do you believe in God?" "Yes, I believe in God," I believe was the answer and I consider anyone that does not believe in God as being dumb and sophisticated.

Q Did you consider these statements of Himmler as being of any value? Did you use them in your education?

A Yes, I took this statement seriously, the only one of all of these statements that he made. That was the Himmler that we knew at that time, that is, the SS and the leaders. He was the Himmler and only this Himmler could be the Leader of the SS. The second face of Himmler we only saw in May or June of last year. This second Himmler could never have asked for obedience, for a following from the old SS men.

DR. HAENSEL: No further questions.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. ELWYN-JONES:

Q You know now that Himmler began the murdering of Jews as far back as 1941, don't you?

A Yes, I found that out in the last year.

Q Himmler gave you plenty of warning that he was one of the greatest killers in history, didn't he?

A I cannot remember of any of these warnings upon the fact that Himmler was such a person.

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Q Did you ever hear of his Posen speech to the SS Major Generals, the Gruppenfuehrer, in October 1943?

A I only head of this speech after the capitulation.

Q I am going to read one or two extracts from that speech to you and I am going to suggest to you that Himmler was setting out the principles upon which you SS men acted. I am going to read from 1919-PS which is Exhibit USA 170:

> "One basic principle must be the absolute rule for the SS man. We must be honest, decent, loyal and comradely to members of our own blood and to nobody else. What happens to a Russian, to a Czech, does not interest me in the slightest. What the nations can offer in the way of good blood of our type we will take, if necessary, by kidnapping their children and raising them here with us. Whether nations live in prosperity or starve to death interests me only insofar as we need them as slaves for our culture. Otherwise it is of no interest to me. When somebody comes to me and says 'I cannot dig the anti-tank ditch with women and children. It is inhuman for it would kill them," then I have to say 'You are a murderer of your own blood because if the anti-tank ditch is not dug, German soldiers will die and they are sons of German mothers, they are our own blood."

and finally Himmler says:

> "That is what I want to instill into this SS and what I believe I have instilled into them as one of the most sacred laws of the future."

I suggest to you that is typical of the principles that Himmler held himself and the principles which he, as your leader, had in fact instilled, as

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Himmler himself claims, into the SS as a whole.

A This speech, as I found out in the meantime, was made to a very small group of persons in 1943 and was never released to the public. Also, it never could have been released for if it had been the military obedience of the Waffen-S[S] and the Regular-SS would have been a thing of the past.

Q But in fact you know what the Waffen-SS and the other German foces concerned did, was to follow in practice the preaching of Himmler.

A I personally fought in the East and in the West as a soldier until I was wounded and I did not see any cruelties carried out nor did I carry any out myself. We saw in the enemy an honest man and if he was wounded we saw in him a friend that was in need.

Q What unit did you serve in?

A I was called into the Army in 1939 and I was Battalion Adjutant in the 95th Infantry Division.

Q The Schwarze Korps, that was an SS publication, was it not?

A Yes.

Q I take it that you approved of the articles that were published in it, did you?

A No more than any other paper.

Q You have said that you were not in favor of persecution of the Jews, haven't you?

A Yes.

Q Let me read to you an extract from the Schwarze Korps for the 8th of August 1940. It is document 2668-PS, Exhibit USA 269.

"Just as the Jewish question will be solved for Germany only when the last Jew has been deported, the rest of Europe should also realize that the German peace which awaits it

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must be a peace without Jews."

Do you agree with that pointof view?

A May I make a statement concerning this? If I remember the number correctly, in 1933 there were about 12 million Jews in Germany. The SS did not want anything else than what was wanted in the beginning also by the NSDAP and that is what was called "numerus clausaus" - in other words, a proportion of Jews within the Reich in their proportion.

Q I don't want to interrupt you but I am now dealing with August 1940 and this is what your SS paper was saying in August 1940 after the German forces had conquered the West, when we now know that Hitler and his gang were beginning to plan the murder, the extermination of the Jews.

A I wanted to state that as far as I can remember, in 1939 there were only 250,000 Jews within Germany and I supposed, just like every other SS man, that these Jews would immigrate from Germany peacefully. We could not have known in 1940 that Hitler was planning the murder of the Jews and he could not have told us that.

Q Just a moment. The SS, you know, took a pretty active part in the pogroms of Jews in November of 1938 in Germany.

A No, I did not know of this participation. I only know that the SS was used in some cases to guard against plunderings and against bodily harm and harm against property.

Q Now this publication, the Schwarze Korps, that was distributed generally among the members of the SS, wasn't it?

A I personally was in the army at that time and I, like the other thousands, probably did not see this publication.

Q But I am suggesting to you that hundreds of thousands of SS men did see this sort of publication that your SS Headquarters was putting out

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and it was the ideological training that these young Germans were getting from your SS organization that turned them, as a body of men, into the greatest killers in the history of the world.

A Through education of the SS no man who volunterred for the SS was educated to be a murderer and if it states in the paper that the Jews should be deported from Germany it doesn't mean that they are to be murdered; the word deported can be both used as deporting or as immigration, both voluntarily or involuntarily, I cannot say exactly what since I have not seen the publication itself and until the year 1939 I only heard of immigration and only spoke of immigration.

Q You yourself hated the Jews, didn't you?

A I had no reason for that.

Q Your colleagues in the SS hated the Jews, didn't they?

A I think that depends on the personal ideas of the individual.

Q What I am suggesting to you is that it did not depend on that at all. It depended on the training that the SS organization was giving these young men of Germany to hate not only the Jews but all other races that stood in the way of German expansion, especially of course the Poles, the Czechs and the Russians.

A May I state that Poles, Czechs, Russians and Jews are not considered a "race" by us. May I explain to this High Commission shortly the basic principles according to which we based our ideology and according to which the SS men were trained?

MR. ELWYN-JONES: Sir, you may wish to allow that question but I am relying on the facts of the history of the years 1939 to 1945. It is a matter for you, Sir, whether you wish the witness to go on with a further explanation.

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CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: You are eliciting the answers, Counsel. If you want to cut his answer short, you may.

MR. ELWYN-JONES: I have no further questions to ask.

RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. HAENSEL:

Q Witness, I want to ask something. You were asked concerning an article in the Schwarze Korps. Was that a paper which was of any importance in your education, just like, for instance, the training booklets?

A Among the training material for the SS were only the SS training leaflets and not the daily newspapers and the Schwarze Korps was considered a daily newspaper.

Q Did the Schwarze Korps not only belong to the group of daily newspapers but also to the group of scandal sheets? Couldn't you read in the Schwarze Korps scandals which you could not read anywhere else?

A I would say that concerning certain issues of the Schwarze Korps that this is true. I do, however, want to make a certain border line to the so-called scandal or horror sheets. I mean, for instance, the Stuermer, which was issued by Streicher. If the Schwarze Korps at times did print some sensational news items, then it was still an entirely different tendency than that of the paper which was not approved by us at all, the Stuermer.

DR. HAENSEL: That is all.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The witness is excused.

(The Commission adjourned at 1625 hours.)

COM. A.
Take 4 - 14
LESSER
1 July
Schwalm

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The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of FRITZ SCHWALM, taken on 1 July 1946.

Alice Meehan.
Reporter (pp. 1-3)

Mabel A. Lesser
Reporter (pp. 4-16)

CERTIFIED TO:

Joseph F. Tubridy
Commissioner

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

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CAPTAIN JOSEPH TUBRIDY

THE SS

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FRITZ SVHWALM, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

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Q Will you raise your right hand and repeat after me:

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

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Q In order not to tire the Court may I quote two sentences from the speech of Major Farr on the afternoon of 19 December 1945 in order to show what connection this testimony has with the Indictment of the Prosecution. He made the two following accusations and I quote:

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I continue quoting. The second point is a negative point of this racial education.

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MR. ELWYN JONES: Really, Sir, this question has been put, during the brief time I have been concerned here, to two other witnesses. It has been dealt with twice already. Both SS men denied before, presumably the third one is going to deny again. I do suggest that this is very repetitious

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DR. HAENSEL: Yes, if the witness answers the question with "no".

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Dr. Haensel, could you please eliminate from the questioning, matters which have been covered before, so that we won't have to raise objections to it and consume time that way?

BY DR. HAENSEL:

Q Was the murder or killing of Jewish people prepared in any way in this racial education?

A No.

Q Would you please explain briefly the difference in this racial question, that is the positive racial education as such as it was taught in the SS and the propagands anti-Semitism?

A These two thoughts have to be divided from the beginning. There is no Jewish Race, just as little as there is a German Race. There is a Jewish people just like there is a German people, a French people, a Belgium people or a British people.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Just a minute. On this line of testimony you hav had so many documents introduced that I don't think there is much point in developing this with this witness.

DR. HAENSEL: I believe that the documents concern themselves mostly with anti-Semitism and not with the racial education of the SS. That is the difference. May I ask, for instance, the question -- Do you think that it was treason on these principles if Himmler later on ordered Jews to be killed?

A I not only believe that it was treason on these principles but that these principles were discarded, because we were especially trained in this racial education to have respect for all other races.

Q Do you say, therefore, that there was a certain sympathy that came from this education of the SS concerning Zionism?

A We also thought that the 25 million Jews which were all over this world had a right, just as much as any other nation, to demand a homeland of their own, and they had a right to take care of their own problems, just like w demanded it of our own people.

Q Did the Racial Settlement Main Office of the SS have anything to do with the deportation of Jews or with the driving away of other non-Germans from

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their homes?

A It did not have anything to do with its planning nor with its carrying out.

Q Did it have anything to do with the so-called Germanization and how did you consider this Germanization?

A The Racial and Settlement Main Office had nothing to do with this Germanization. Our highest position was that of the Reichs Commissar for the strengthening of German Nationality and we had two certain duties: The first one was the removal of all foreign elements and their transportation bac to their own Homelands. This was in order to prevent any Germanization by non-Germans. Secondly, the return to the Reich of all these Polish Germans living within the area that became Germany after the Polish campaign.

Q The Prosecution has maintained that the banner line "People without space" or "People without Lebensraum" was a banner headline and a slogan that led Germany on to further territorial aggressive wars.

A We did not want the slogan "Volk ohne Raum" ("People without Room"). However, the idea after 1933 was that to a State like this belonged certain colonies and within the next twenty-five to thirty years it would not have been necessary any more to speak principally of a people without room.

Q Was aggressive territorial warfare taught in the education of the SS

A No. We did not expect by our selection to take a short time but we did expect to need for it a very long period of peace. We did not consider that any kind of racial cleanliness within the Reich could be taken care of wi less than twenty-five to thirty years, that is, less than one generation.

(A recess was taken.)

DIRECT EXAMINATION (RESUMED)

BY DR. HAENSEL:

Q Therefore, can one make a bridge between this racial resettlement education and the evacuation, of ghettoes, and the resettlement, as it was carried out later? In other words, was the German policy later on (the policy of late years), of these evacuations, deportations and ghettoes, did it have, as its basic principle, this education of the SS?

A No, these things basically did not have anything to do with each othe

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CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: What do you mean by that question, may I ask?

DR. HAENSEL: I want to disprove what the Prosecution has claimed at times, that these crimes against humanity had their start with this selectio of people of races of which we are talking now. The root of this is not in these principles, it is somewhere else. That is, the root of these later events.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: But what did you mean by the question?

DR. HAENSEL: There have been terrible crimes against humanity on the one hand. On the other hand there was the ideology of the racial selection as it was taught to the SS. I want to prove that this teaching of ideology racial selection to the SS was not the root of these terrible crimes against humanity but that these crimes had their root somewhere else.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: It is not an explanation of what you are trying to prove that is desired. I am trying to find out what you asked him, what you are trying to elicit from this witness.

DR. HAENSEL: This witness was one of the teachers of this education and he should know what he taught his pupils.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The only pointis -- the question did not make any apparent sense. I am trying to find out what you meant by it.

BY DR. HAENSEL:

Q What did you teach concerning God and religion? Did you teach Godlessness?

A We did not believe in Godlessness and atheism. We did not teach it and we did not believe in it. We required that every SS man, in his own religion, did believe or did honor God.

Q Did Himmler make any statements concerning this? Do you remember a speech in Gosslar where he mentioned God?

A I remember this speech very well myself, since I was present at that time. If I remember correctly the heading of this speech was "The SS As An Anti-Bolshevistic Fighting Organization", and towards the end Himmler came to the part where he spoke of the relation of the SS men to God. I think it was when he spoke of the education of the SS men that is when he mentioned the 50 basic rules of the education of the SS men. In the first 5 questions I

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believe it stated, and I quote, "Do you believe in God?" "Yes, I believe in God", I believe was the answer and I consider anyone that does not believe in God as being dumb and sophisticated.

Q Did you consider these statements of Himmler as being of any value? Did you use them in your education?

A Yes, I took this statement seriously, the only one of all of the statements that he made. That was the Himmler that we knew at that time, that is, the SS and the leaders. He was the Himmler and only this Himmler could be the Leader of the SS. The second face of Himmler we only saw in May or June of last year. This second Himmler could never haveasked for obedience, for a following from the old SS men.

DR. HAENSEL: No further questions.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. ELWYN-JONES:

Q You know now that Himmler began the murdering of Jews as far back as 1941, don't you?

A Yes, I found that out in the last year.

Q Himmler gave you plenty of warning that he was one of the greatest killers in history, didn't he?

A I cannot remember of any of these warnings upon the fact that Himmler was such a person.

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Q Did you ever hear of his Posen speech to the SS Major Generals, the Gruppenfuehrer, in October 1943?

A I only heard of this speech after the capitulation.

Q I am going to read one or two extracts from that speech to you and I am going to suggest to you that Himmler was setting out the principles upon which you SS men acted. I am going to read from 1919-PS which is Exhibit USA 170:

"One basic principle must be the absolute rule for the SS man. We must be honest, decent, loyal and comradely to members of our blood and to nobody else. What happens to a Russian, to a Czech, does not interest me in the slightest. What the nations can offer in the way of good blood of our type we will take, if necessary, by kidnapping their children and raising them here with us. Whether nations live in prosperity or starve to death interests me only insofar as we need them as slaves for our culture. Otherwise it is of no interest to me. When somebody comes to me and says 'I cannot dig the anti-tank ditch with women and children . It is inhuman for it would kill them', then I have to say 'You are a murderer of your own blood because if the anti-tank ditch is not dug, German soldiers will die and they are sons of German mothers, they are our own blood."

and finally Himmler says:

"That is what I want to instil into this SS and what I believe I have instilled into them as one of the most sacred laws of the future."

I suggest to you that is typical of the principles that Himmler held himself and the principles which he, as your leader, had in fact instilled, as Himmler himself claims, into the SS as a whole.

A This speech, as I found out in the meantime, was made to a very small group of persons in 1943 and was never released to the public. Also, it never could have been released for if it had been the military obedience of the Waffen-SS and the Regular-SS would have been a thing of the past.

Q But in fact you know what the Waffen-SS and the other German forces concerned did, was to follow in practice the preaching of Himmler?

A I personally fought in the East and in the West as a soldier until I was wounded and I did not see any cruelties carried out nor did I carry

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any out myself. We saw in the enemy an honest man and if he was wounded we saw in him a friend that was in need.

Q What unit did you serve in?

A I was called into the Army in 1939 and I was Battalion Adjutant in the 95th Infantry Division.

QThe Schwarze Korps, that was an SS publication, was it not?

A Yes.

Q I take it that you approved of the articles that were published in it, did you?

A No more than any other paper.

Q You have said that you were not in favor of persecution of the Jews, haven't you?

A Yes.

Q Let me read to you an extract from the Schwarze Korps for the 8th of August 1940. It is document 2668-PS, Exhibit USA 269.

"Just as the Jewish question will be solved for Germany only when the last Jew has been deported, the rest of Europe should also realize that the German peace which awaits it must be a peace without Jews."

Do you agree with that point of view?

A May I make a statement concerning this? If I remember the number correctly, in 1933 there were about 12 million Jews in Germany. The SS did not want anything else than what was wanted in the beginning also by the NSDAP and that is what was called "numerus clausaus" -- in other words, a proportion of Jews within the Reich in their proportion.

Q I don't want to interrupt you but I am now dealing with August 1940 and this is what your SS paper was saying in August 1940 after the German forces had conquered the West, when we now know that Hitler and his gang were beginning to plan the murder, the extermination of the Jews.

A I wanted to state that as far as I can remember, in 1939 there were only 250,000 Jews within Germany and I supposed, just like every other SS man, that these Jews would immigrate from Germany peacefully. We could not have known in 1940 that Hitler was planning the murder of the Jews and he could not have told us that.

Q Just a moment. The SS, you know, took a pretty active part in the

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pogroms of Jews in November of 1938 in Germany.

A No, I did not know of this participation. I only know that the SS was used in some cases to guard against plunderings and against bodily harm and harm against property.

Q Now this publication, the Schwarze Korps, that was distributed generally among the members of the SS, wasn't it?

A I personally was in the Army at that time and I, like the other thousands, probably did not see this publication.

Q But I am suggesting to you that hundreds of thousands of SS men did see this sort of publication that your SS Headquarters was putting out and it was the ideological training that these young Germans were getting from your SS organization that turned them, as a body of men, into the greatest killers in the history of the world.

A Through education of the SS no man who volunteered for the SS was educated to be a murderer and if it states in the paper that the Jews should be deported from Germany it doesn't mean that they are to be murdered; the word deported can be both used as deporting or as immigration, both voluntarily or involuntarily, I cannot say exactly what since I have not seen the publication itself and until the year 1939 I only heard of immigration and only spoke of immigration.

Q You yourself hated the Jews, didn't you?

A I had no reason for that.

Q Your colleagues in the SS hated the Jews, didn't they?

A I think that depends on the personal ideas of the individual.

Q What I am suggesting to you is that it did not depend on that at all. It depended on the training that the SS organization was giving these young men of Germany to hate not only the Jews but all other races that stood in the way of German expansion, especially of course the Poles, the Czechs and the Russians.

A May I state that Poles, Czechs, Russians and Jews are not considered a "race" by us. May I explain to this High Commission shortly the basic principles according to which we based our ideology and according to which the SS men were trained?

MR. ELWYN JONES: Sir, you may wish to allow that question but I am

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relying on the facts of the history of the years 1939 to 1945. It is a matter for you, Sir, whether you wish the witness to go on with a further explanation.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: You are eliciting the answers, Counsel. If you want to cut his answer short, you may.

MR. EIWYN JONES: I have no further questions to ask.

RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. HAENSEL:

Q Witness, I want to ask something. You were asked concerning an article in the Schwarze Korps. Was that a paper which was of any importance in your education, just like, for instance, the training booklets?

A Among the training material for the SS were only the SS training leaflets and not the daily newspapers and the Schwarze Korps was considered a daily hewspaper.

Q Did the Schwarze Korps not only belong to the group of daily newspapers but also th the group of scandal sheets? Couldn't you read in the Schwarze Korps scandals which you couldnot read anywhere else?

A I would say that concerning certain issues of the Schwarze Korps that this is true. I do, however, want to make a certain border line to the so-called scandal or horror sheets. I mean, for instance, the Stuermer, which was issued by Streicher. If the Schwarze Korps at times did pring some sensational news items, then it was still an entirely different tendency than that of the paper which was not approved by us at all, the Stuermer.

DR. HAENSEL: That is all.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The witness is excused.

(The Commission adjourned at 1625 hours.)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of Frida Schwalm, taken on 1 July 1946.

Alice Meehan
Reporter

Mabel A. Lesser
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

Joseph F. Tubridy
Commissioner